

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Replacement drawings for Figs. 1-4 are submitted concurrently herewith, wherein the lines in Figs. 1 and 4 identifying cross-sectional views have been amended appropriately to correspond to the actual cross-sectional figures.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets for Figs. 1-4 (2 sheets)

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim to priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 and for confirming receipt of a certified copy of Applicant's Japanese priority document.

Claims 1-7 are all the presently pending claims, and they stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly being non-enabled for the reasons set forth in numbered paragraph 1 on page 2 of the Office Action. Specifically, the Examiner is apparently having difficulty understanding the cross-sectional views of Figs. 2 and 3 (which correspond, respectively, to Figs. 1 and 4). The Examiner notes that the cross-sections are taken parallel to the serrations 101/15, such that they should not cross the serrations. However, in Figs. 2 and 3, the cross-section appears to be taken at an angle to the serrations 101/15, i.e., the cross-sectional view appears to bisect or cross the serrations 101/15.

Submitted herewith are corrected replacement drawings for Figs. 1-4 which are believed to address the Examiner's concerns, and overcome the aforementioned rejection.

Claims 1-7 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The foregoing editorial claim amendments are believed to clarify the claims and overcome the indefiniteness rejection.

As described and claimed herein, the present invention is directed to a pneumatic tire contributing to durability of a region of a display portion provided on a sidewall.

Claim 1 is hereby amended to further clarify the invention in accordance with the description in the instant specification. As set forth therein, the pneumatic tire has an important feature that bottoms of joined portions of the protruding portion and decorative portion and/or of the protruding portions are higher than the bottoms of the decorative portion.

With this feature, rigidity differences are resolved, and thus the occurrence of stress concentrations is decreased, and it becomes possible to restrict cracks caused by flex fatigue for a long period of time without damaging the tire's exterior appearance. As a result, the durability of the tire in the region of the protruding portions is improved to a great extent.

JP '967 shows a tire with characters on a sidewall. In this tire, the depth D1 of the parallel grooves is shallower than the depth D2 of grooves 4 on the characters. However, the grooves 4 are formed on the characters, namely, the grooves 4 are part of the characters. In other words, the grooves 4 are not formed between characters. Consequently, the grooves 4 do not correspond to the "bottoms of joined portions of the protruding portion and decorative portion and/or of the protruding portions" of the claimed invention. Thus, JP '967 fails to disclose or suggest the feature that "bottoms of joined portions of the protruding portion and decorative portion and/or of the protruding portions are higher than the bottoms of the decorative portion" as claimed.

In Clementz and Ratliff '928, bottoms of ridges 20, 30 or 20F have the same height in a direction of protruding from the sidewall of the tire.

In Vizina, bottoms of ridges have the same height in a direction of protruding from the sidewall of the tire. The flat portions are formed on the characters, namely, the flat portions are part of the characters. In other words, the flat portions are not formed between characters. Consequently, the flat portions do not correspond to the “bottoms of joined portions of the protruding portion and decorative portion and/or of the protruding portions” as presently claimed.

JP '224 and Ratliff '446 also fail to disclose or suggest the feature that “bottoms of joined portions of the protruding portion and decorative portion and/or of the protruding portions are higher than the bottoms of the decorative portion” in accordance with the claimed invention.

Thus, as discussed above, the cited references, taken alone or in combination, neither teach nor fairly suggest the claimed invention, nor would they achieve the effects of the claimed invention. Consequently, the present invention is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance.

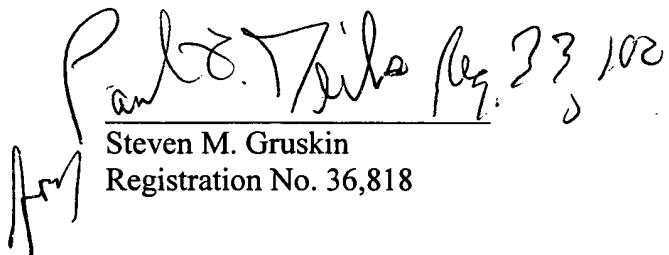
In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue that the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
U.S. SERIAL NO. 10/500,191

ART UNIT 1733
Q82273

A Petition for Extension of Time with appropriate fee accompanies this document, along with an Information Disclosure Statement. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all additional required fees (with the exception of the Issue/Publication Fees) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


Steven M. Gruskin
Registration No. 36,818

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 15, 2006